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FRIDAY, APRIL 14, 1911.

**WOODROW WILSON'S PLEA.**  
Woodrow Wilson made a remarkable speech to the National League of Democratic Clubs in Indianapolis yesterday, in which he urged the Democratic party to state its creed in the concrete and define clearly the special form of privilege it declares against in a general campaign for the rights of the people. That, at any rate, is what the Associated Press says it was about, and we agree, so far as we can make it out, with everything he said. It could not have been better said; nobody can say things half so effectively as Governor Wilson; but we really do not see that he has made the situation much clearer by his powerful plea for the adaptation of the principles of Jefferson to the policies of the present day and time. The party is now, as it was in Jefferson's time, "a party of movement, of readjustment, a party that presses toward the future with unshaken faith." That is what it has always been doing, that is why it was established and how it has been perpetuated; yet it is the same now that it was when Jefferson founded it upon impregnable truth. Here are some choice bits from what the School Teacher said to the Democrats yesterday.

"Democracy is not a mere theory of Government. It is an energy of life, a force in the rank and file, interpreted once and again by great leaders, but not confined to their private cult and understanding. Its blood is the blood of the people. Its purposes are the purposes shared by all mankind. Its hopes are the hopes of all races and all civilizations."

"We must state our creed in the concrete, not in the abstract. Our thoughts run back, of course, to the great Declaration of Independence which Jefferson gave us, but we cannot stop with that. . . . It is an eminent practical document, meant for the use of practical men; not a thesis for philosophers, nor a whip for tyrants; not a theory of government, but a programme of action."

There was a good deal more of the same striking sort in the School Teacher's speech; and nothing better than what he said in denunciation of the powers of "the interests" in dominating the legislation of the country and controlling the administration of its affairs. There was nothing new in all that, as we have all been trying to save the country for the people. There must be open debate of all questions of legislation, and there has been, as the Congressional Record and all the newspapers in the land show. That thousands of mistakes have been made in legislation and administration no one will deny; but the lawmakers and the administrators of the law have all been selected by the people. This is a popular government, and shall never perish from the earth.

The people have not always been fortunate in the choice of their representatives, but they have the remedy in their own hands. They could not do better than electing in groups among themselves and with the necessary neighborhood view they would take of questions affecting the interests of a great nation than their representatives ought to be able to do with all the field before them for observation and control. We must get down to the concrete; certainly, but what is the concrete? We must follow the principles of Jefferson as illuminated by Wilson and with the great Governor of New Jersey and next President of the United States going to work in translating the Declaration of Independence into questions of our own day. That is the work that lies before us; and that is the work we have been trying to do not as a thesis for philosophers, but as a whip for tyrants. This is the concrete proposition laid down by Governor Wilson, and it is the duty of the Democratic party to transmit it into action.

**A HARD JOB EVEN AT THE PRICE.**  
Willie Campbell, Manager of the Faculty Bureau of the Omaha Commercial Club, has written a letter to Jimmie Warren, Commissioner of the Memphis Business Men's Club, saying:

"Since you failed to get Bryan for \$25,000, why don't you now get James C. Dabbsman, the richest man in Omaha, who will likely come for about \$150,000. Mayor Kim has been the brains of the Bryan candidacy in the West for fifteen years, and will make you a good advertisement. Photo and letter follow."

Why not? The Memphis would save by this transaction at least \$500,000, and they would get the man who has really done most to keep Mr. Bryan before the public in the West. It would be asking a good deal of Dabbsman to expect him to live in Memphis for \$150,000 a year, but he would probably be willing to try it for twelve months at least at that figure. If the Memphis people cannot get Dabbsman they might be able to get The Colonel to go down there and stir them up for a year or so for it is money that either Bryan or Dabbsman. We have no authority, of course, to speak for

The Colonel on this or any other point, but we should not be surprised if he would be willing to close at a round million, and that would be a clean saving of a million dollars. What's the difference, since The Colonel has appropriated all of Mr. Bryan's policies? There would be a change of personality only in this case, not a change of principles, and it could be done, we venture to say, again, at a saving of a cool million.

**MORE PENSION STEALS.**  
One does not hear a great deal about Senator Brandegee, of Connecticut; but when he does get busy he is very busy. In less than six working days since the present extraordinary session of Congress began, he has introduced twenty-five personal pension bills, an average of about four bills per diem, providing for pensions varying in amount from \$20 for the deserving widows of deceased defenders of the country, to \$50 for former officers of considerable rank, who "saved the Union" fifty years ago, and covering a territory reaching from Texas, in the State of Maine, down through the fertile Connecticut Valley, where tobacco is grown under cover at something like \$2.50 the pound for protection from the Government, to Pequonoe Bridge, in the State of New Jersey.

Alonso C. Neff, of New London, Connecticut, is among the favorites of a grateful country which is asked to pay him \$40 the month because in the brave days of old he was a musician in the Fourteenth United States Infantry. All of these men and women are to be kept on the pay rolls of the Government because of services alleged to have been performed by them when the Nation was in peril.

We do not know what the merits of these several Brandegee pension bills may be; but we are certain that they should not be passed simply because so eminent and active a public servant has proposed them, and without the most careful examination not only by the Senators from other States, but by the President also, before they shall vote for them or he shall sign them. Mr. Taft will find in the Messages and Documents of the Presidents some very important communications made to Congress by one Grover Cleveland when he was flooded with personal pension bills, communications which we would commend to his careful consideration before joining Senator Brandegee in his present formidable raid upon the Treasury in the name of patriotism. A little calculation will show him that the twenty-five bills introduced by the Senator from Connecticut, each a small matter in itself, will amount to not less than \$12,000 the year.

The case is even worse as presented by Representative Sherwood, of Ohio, who goes in "for the whole hog" in the bill he has introduced in the House providing that "any person who served ninety days and less than six months shall receive a pension of \$15 a month; for a service of six months and less than nine months, \$20 a month; for a service of nine months and less than one year, \$25 a month, and for a service of one year or over, \$30 a month. The bill is to take effect on its passage and pensions date from the filing of claim." Sulloway, of New Hampshire, has renewed his bill which passed the House at the last session, but was held up in the Senate. It is of a feather with the Sherwood bill, and both of these service bills and all the personal bills are of the same general character of robbery in the name of a patient and long-suffering and much abused country. All of them should be defeated in both houses of Congress and if they should get by the Senators and Representatives they should be killed by the President. He would have vetoed the Sulloway bill had it passed the last Congress, and we believe that he will veto the pension legislation now proposed. That is what he ought to do and do it like a man, putting the question squarely to the old soldiers of the Union armies who actually rendered service to the country. The pension bill should be passed, would amount to not less than \$200,000,000 the year. Grant thought that \$20,000,000 the year would be the extreme limit to which the expenditure of the Nation should go on this account, and Grant was a tolerably fair sort of a soldier. If he were President now he would shut it out on this line if it took all summer.

We must, however, commend Sherwood for a certain degree of modesty in his bill for the relief of the old soldiers. It will be noted that it is to take effect on its passage and that the pensions are to "date from the filing of claim." One is almost inclined to wonder at this provision, as the services for which the old soldiers are to be paid were rendered about fifty years ago, and their pensions should "date" from the time they were mustered out of the armies with which they were connected. It is rank imprudence to pay them only from 1911 for services cheerfully given to the country in the '60s.

**A HOT ONE FOR GOV. BLEVINS.**  
A special dispatch from Greenville, S. C., to the Columbia Record quotes Governor Coleman, Let-Me-Alone Blevins as saying: "I will show the people that a county officer like Goodwin cannot tell the Governor of the State to go to hell." Goodwin is Supervisor of Greenville County. He has refused to pay the salary of the constable employed in that county on the ground that no provision in law has been made for it. The Supervisor is sure of his ground, the Governor declares that he will hire a lawyer and fight the case in the Courts, going to the Supreme Court of the State, if necessary. We infer from the very inadequate report we have seen of the circumstances, that the Supervisor when ordered by the Governor to do a

thing which the Supervisor does not think he has authority in law to do, the Supervisor indulged in some remarks which appear to have been interpreted by the Governor as a disposition on the part of the county officer to consign the Chief Magistrate of a sovereign State—one of the Original Thirteen, in fact—to the warmest region that has yet been disclosed to the imagination of man. So far as we know, there is no provision in any of the statutes of the State which forbids a Supervisor from telling a Governor to "go to hell."

The Goodwins, of Greenville, are a very good sort of people, we believe, careful of the rights of their neighbors and indisposed to subject any person to unmerited punishment for any of the acts committed against the peace and good order of the Commonwealth. We are sure that if Supervisor Goodwin really employed the language attributed to him, he meant that it should be accepted in a figurative sense only. Besides, we have inferred from certain incidents of the recent past that the Governor might find that the Courts of the State are not altogether out of sympathy with the very plain speech of the Supervisor in this case as aforesaid.

**A GEORGIA VIEW OF IT.**  
In the ranks of those who have favored the liberation of Edgar A. Stripling, former chief of police of Danville and escaped convict, the Macon Telegraph is not to be found. Our contemporary says:

"Dead men tell no tales and have no day in Court. Strange that if William J. Cornett, the victim of a midnight assassination fourteen years ago, was as black as he is now, he would have been indicted for the murder of his assassin. Certainly, the time to have made these charges and to have brought out the facts that it is claimed now go to support the plea of pardon for the assassin on the score of the unwritten law was there and then when the entire conditions were fresh and familiar to the jury and to the witnesses, whom from their personal knowledge could have endorsed them as true or stamped them as lies, as the case may be. The loyalty of the widowed wife of the dead man after fourteen years, although married again, is doubted. In his testimony and rebuttal of these charges."

Then, again, as the Telegraph points out, it is not a pleasing thing to see the pardon board openly and expressly recognize the unwritten law, making their action a fearful precedent for the future, encouraging license and disregard of the written law in years to come.

**LIFE AMONG THE LILY WHITES.**  
The Lily-White faction of the Republican party in South Carolina which, it is said, "has not been recognized by the National Republican organization," has endorsed the Administration of President Taft and pledged the eighteen delegates from that State, who have not yet been named, to support his renomination for President in 1912. This is interesting if not very important. There are precious few white Republicans in South Carolina, and their number has not been increasing at a dangerous rate during the last few years. We should say, at a venture, that there are probably a baker's dozen of them, most of whom are occupying Federal offices of one sort and another. There are some white Republicans in that State who might be called Republicans in theory only, as they have never been known to practice in any of the conventions or work of the party.

The Lily-White movement is a very good thing, in a sense, as its purpose is to blot out the color line, but there is very little of the Republican party in South Carolina left when the color line is taken away. If a census could be taken, it would probably be found that there are more white Democrats in the South who have given their support to Mr. Taft than white Republicans. In his case it is the man, not the party.

**TALKING TO BROTHER CHARLEY.**  
Is that the Long Distance Telegraph office? Yes? Well, call up the Times-Star in Cincinnati, Ohio, and say that Richmond would like to speak to Charles P. Taft."

Ten minutes later: "Hello! Is that Cincinnati? Yes? Why, good morning, Mr. Taft. Glad to hear your voice again. What is that? Oh, nothing at all, except that you seem to be carrying rather more big headline type and pictures on your first page than the reading matter appears to justify. Take your 'Late Night Edition' of Tuesday last, for example. You will find that it contains seventy inches of reading matter and thirty-seven inches of headlines and pictures, twenty-four inches of headlines and thirteen inches of pictures. The first headline, reaching across the first page twice in black letters five-eighths of an inch long, is over an article about a fire in the First District School which 'Frenzied Mothers' Watched from the street and which appears to have caused no damage except to the building, as at the time of its occurrence nearly all of the children were playing in the yard below. Several firemen had narrow escapes from being hit by falling timbers, and when a piece of the wall fell with a crash, a grown went up from those who were watching, and some of the teachers who were on the fourth floor eating when the fire broke out, dropped their way through it (the smoke) and down to the street before the flames had reached the room in which they were eating."

"It must have been very exciting, as the building will soon be ready for the resumption of the exercises in the school and it would have been difficult in that event to have found in any of our front type big enough for the necessary feeling of horror. Turn to the last page of the same edition of your paper, Mr. Taft, and you will find the account between the reading matter and the headlines more nearly

balanced, as there are twenty inches of each, with fifteen inches of pictures thrown in to make both go a little better. After you have examined these two pages, and the other fourteen pages also, if you like, take the whole thing with you into your magnificent picture gallery and there, in the midst of your treasures, regard it from an artistic point of view, if you can; and having meditated upon it, hike down to your office at Sixth and Walnut Streets, and tell the boys that it wouldn't have cost any more to say in a great deal smaller type, that the First District Schoolhouse caught fire, and that the fire was put out without loss of life, and that by saving 174 inches in headlines it would be possible for them to make just as full a paper and a great deal better looking paper in fourteen pages as in sixteen pages. So long, Mr. Taft."

**THE LETTER OF THE LAW.**  
The Massachusetts Supreme Court has lately illustrated how necessary it is to observe minutely all the technicalities of a law and its exact wording. This court has disallowed the will of a Haverhill woman, because it had not been properly "executed," that is, signed and the signature duly witnessed.

After reading over to the three witnesses the "testimonium" clause which they were to sign and which declared that they had seen her affix her signature, the testatrix thoughtfully omitted her own signature and passed the document over to the witnesses to sign. They did it, not noticing her omission.

She went away, but in five minutes she returned, saying, "I forgot to sign my name to the will." Then, in the presence of the same three witnesses, she signed.

The mistake was fatal for the witnesses in declaring that they had seen the testatrix sign the will and stated a technical untruth. "It was not true until five minutes later." After she had placed her signature to the will the witnesses did not make an additional statement that they had seen her do it. Therefore, the will is invalid.

The plain intent of the testatrix matters not. The testimony of the witnesses counts for naught. The testatrix was not permitted to dispose of her property in her own way because of a mere red tape technicality. How true it is that the letter killeth!

**A JUST LAW.**  
The Legislature of California has passed a very just law to which Governor Johnson has gladly given his signature. It provides that, in case of conviction of a husband, to provide for his family he shall be put to work on the county roads or at other public work and the county shall pay \$1.50 the day to the wife and babies for each day the husband works.

This law may be Socialistic, but, if so, it is creditable to Socialism. It fills "a long felt want" and it brings relief to those who are made to suffer for no wrong of their own.

**BIRDS AND THE COST OF LIVING.**  
One billion dollars has been added to the cost of the higher cost of living by the unnecessary slaughter of birds. Such is the statement made by the National Association of Audubon Societies, and the statistics of the Government back up the assertion. The broods of rodents and insects that would have been exterminated had their natural bird foes been protected from feather men, market butchers and pot hunters is the cause of this great additional burden on the already overburdened plain people of this country. Losses to food and cloth products in the last year amounting to \$10 for every person in the United States are due only to the uncalculated destruction of feathered insect eaters. To show for this great loss, we have nothing but the plumage of Easter hats.

Every year that commercial interests are allowed to thin the ranks of the insect-eating species, higher prices must be paid by the ultimate consumer for vegetables, fruit, cotton cloth and many other necessary staples. This is the conservative prediction of those who have studied the situation carefully.

It is estimated that a loss of between \$25,000,000 and \$30,000,000 was sustained on last year's cotton crop alone. This loss was borne by every one who buys a bit of cotton goods, principally because the birds that are destroying cotton pests are being killed out, Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, Missouri, Alabama and Arkansas are now impregnated with the costly plague, and ornithologists report that bird life is becoming so wasted throughout the whole cotton belt that the boll weevil may soon spread over every plantation with little opposition from the natural forces that help to hold it in check.

Every dollar's worth of such damage that the bird guards could prevent, it is asserted, must come in pennies from the pockets of the great mass of the American people.

Practically every article of food, save meat, has been found to reach the consumer to-day with an added cost to every millions of dollars of loss that the Government experts have proved is largely due to the increasing lack of insect-eating birds to drive away pests that are spreading over the fields. Such staples as corn are falling short of a supply that means lower prices, to a degree, on account of the decrease of wild birds and the consequent increase in their noxious insect prey.

If the fields, orchards, gardens and plantations of the United States were not being guarded by less and less of these insect-eating birds, every year, the records show their yield would be increased and the price of their products lowered.

T. Gilbert Pearson, secretary of the

National Association of Audubon Societies, says in this connection:

"Though the Easter season is saddened by the sight of wild bird feathers on bonnets, there is this year a plain economy to be reaped for revolt at this time in the findings of the Government experts of the Department of Agriculture. We have heard of the butchering of meadow larks, whose diet is proved to consist of 75 per cent crop-destroying insects in one Georgia community."

Thus what we have said before is plainly brought out by the figures of the Government. We cannot afford to slay birds in an unnecessary number in this State. They protect our crops, they destroy crop-enemies, and they ought to be protected and allowed to keep up their effective work in exterminating the pests which destroy the things we grow and upon which we depend for our living.

"You're from Washington?" a charming woman of Richmond asked a beautiful young thing on the Laurel Street car last night. "Yes," answered she. "How long shall you stay in Richmond?" Answer: "Just as long as I can; I should be satisfied to stay here forever." That's what they all say.

The New York Sun is authority for the story that a man was arrested in the German Catholic Church of All Saints in that town on Wednesday for picking the pocket of a fellow worshiper. Queer place to ply the pocket-picking industry, the consensus of opinion among all the men who "take up the collection" being that people carry less money with them to church than they carry to any other place.

On Wednesday Engineer Henry Childs, of Syracuse, driving engine No. 43 on the New York Central Railroad, attached to a small train carrying seven all-steel mail cars and two Pullmans, made the three miles between Bellview and Lancaster in one minute and fifty-one seconds. The first mile was covered in 38 seconds, the second in 37 seconds and the third in 36 seconds. These are the fastest miles ever driven on a steam railroad in the history of the world.

**Voice of the People**  
Reciprocity and Virginia Apples. To the Editor of The Times-Dispatch:—I am a fruit-grower in Virginia and I am alarmed at the proposed reciprocity treaty with Canada. The passage of the Canadian reciprocity treaty will injure their business if ratification is made. I am a fruit-grower in Virginia and I am alarmed at the proposed reciprocity treaty with Canada. The passage of the Canadian reciprocity treaty will injure their business if ratification is made. I am a fruit-grower in Virginia and I am alarmed at the proposed reciprocity treaty with Canada. The passage of the Canadian reciprocity treaty will injure their business if ratification is made.

**FOUND IN RECOVERY OF PIRATE TREASURE**  
BY LA MARQUE DE FONTENAY. ERIC PHIPPS, second secretary of the British Embassy at Paris, and private secretary to the ambassador, has been discovered in the recovery of pirate treasure, such has been the object of many of his less exploring expeditions in recent years. Miss Ward is the daughter of a Philadelphia family, the only survivor of Sir Henry Stanley's Pasha Relief Expedition, and of his Philadelphia family, the only survivor of Sir Henry Stanley's Pasha Relief Expedition, and of his Philadelphia family, the only survivor of Sir Henry Stanley's Pasha Relief Expedition.

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**Daily Queries and Answers**  
Easter Eggs and Hare. Easter? What is the significance of the hare? The Easter egg is invested with a symbolic significance, though the idea has been so perverted and misapplied that its purpose has been lost sight of. From the remotest ages the egg has been regarded as a symbol of creation, or new birth, as a symbol of a Persian tradition the world was hatched from an egg at that season of the year that corresponds with the vernal equinox. Among the Hebrews the egg entered into many mysterious ceremonies, and was prominently used during the paschal festival. In the Christian era it became a symbol of new life, and it was colored red in allusion to the blood shed by the sinners on the cross. The connection between Easter and the hare is supposed to have been made by the connection of the hare with the moon, as the hare's date depends on the moon, is, in a times the hare has been a symbol of the moon. Some of the many reasons for this is that the hare is nocturnal, and is out at night to feed; both the hare and the moon have been supposed to have the power of changing their sex; the new moon was masculine, and the old moon feminine. Another reason was that the hare, unlike rabbits, which are born in a burrow, has its eyes open; thus it was argued that the hare, like the hare, which is fabled never to close its eyes, was as prominent a figure in the nursery as Santa Claus is in this country, connect the hare with the egg, and the children are made to believe that the many vari-colored eggs are laid by the hare.

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